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REMARKS

Claims 77 to 88 have been canceled to advance prosecution.

Independent claims 89 to 94 and 100 have been revised to specify that the chemical conversion treatment is one with an aqueous solution comprising a mixture of a phenolic resin, a trivalent chromium fluoride compound, and phosphoric acid. Claim 97 has been canceled and new claims 111 and 112 have been added directed to broader aspects of the invention.

The withdrawal of the rejections of claims 89 to 102 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 is noted.

The first eight art rejections appearing in Sections 7 to 14 of the Office Action are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 77 to 88.

The art rejections under 35 USC 103 using various combinations of references to reject claims 89 to 102 are respectfully traversed. Each of the claims now before the Examiner specifies that (1) the laminated sheet is formed by cooling the adhesive resin layer by passing the laminated sheet between a chill roll and a pressure roll and (2) the laminated sheet is heated so that the adhesive resin layer is heated at a

temperature not lower than its softening point. As a result of these recited steps, one is able to improve the adhesive strength between the adhesive resin layer and the chemical conversion coating; see the discussion at page 44, lines 2 to 11, of the specification. The cited references neither teach nor suggest such an advantage.

It seems that the Examiner has relied upon the teachings in Kawahara et al. '136 for a teaching in the art of using the cooling and heating steps of the claims; see e.g., the discussion in the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree. Kawahara et al. '136 disclose that the laminated plate is produced by superimposing a resin film and an aluminum substrate having a layer of the adhesive and/or an adhesion promoter formed thereon and heating the assembly to a temperature above the melting point of the resin film. The resin does not teach or suggest that the produced laminated plate formed by cooling the adhesive resin is heated so that the adhesive resin layer is heated at a temperature not lower than its softening point. The general comments in the reference at column 14, line 64 et seq. of

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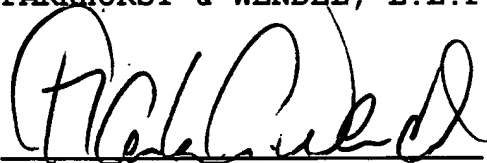
laminated plate production during formation of a can for canning do not direct the artisan to the features of the instant claims.

Applicants also submit with respect that Steele et al. '714 does not teach or suggest the aqueous solution recited in the claims. There is no mention at all of a trivalent chromium fluoride compound.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims patentably define over the cited art and such action is earnestly solicited.

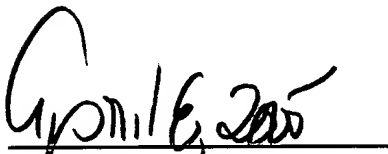
Respectfully submitted,

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